

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 2005
(approved 11/7/05)

Vice Chair Richard Nass called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:07 p.m. in the Fallen Heroes Conference room, Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were Jack Berry, Jay Bradshaw, Representative Richard Brown, Stephan Bunker, John Cannon, Joseph Thomas (for Chief John Dean), Chief Darrel Fournier, Alex McPhedran, Geoffrey Maker, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Charles Soltan, David Wacker and Steve Willis. Members excused were Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Edward Johnston and Chief Jethro Pease. Members absent included Representative Patricia Blanchette, Senator Bruce Bryant, Art Cleaves, Representative Robert Duplessie and Bill Williams. Joseph Ostwald, Director of Construction of the Bureau of General Services, attended as guest of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Dave Wacker, to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2005 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes will be amended to reflect that Jay Bradshaw was excused, not present.

Committee Reports

The Training Facilities (TF) Committee reported on their progress with the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. The TF committee has been working with the Bureau of General Services and recently completed their final interviews of candidates. The process must remain confidential until the final candidate is selected. The TF committee also discussed the status of their MEMA grant application.

The Spring Conference committee reminded the Fire Commission that the dates for the 2006 Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response are March 21st and 22nd at the Augusta Civic Center. The brochure is being developed with assistance from Maine Municipal Association (MMA). Discussions are underway to secure Billy Goldfetter from Ohio as the keynote speaker. Committee members suggested the Fire Commission consider expanding the conference from two days to a week, including a weekend, in 2007. The Fire Commission was urged to see the conference as an opportunity to exchange ideas on public safety by combining resources in one large setting.

The Recruitment and Retention committee reported the compilation of the survey data is almost complete. The committee expects the data to help the Fire Commission determine how much training per year is occurring and if the length of service award programs (LOSAPS) are important to firefighters.

The Best Practices committee has not received any new candidates for the 2005 Best Practices award. Fire Commission members discussed focusing more attention on the award and making the nominations forms more available. Members agreed to bring nominations forms to the community forums and to ask MMA and the Maine Fire Chiefs to mention the award in their respective monthly newsletters.

The Bylaws committee reviewed the Fire Commission's bylaws and did not make specific recommendations at this meeting. Fire Commission members discussed altering the quorum and attendance requirements. Members expressed concerns with members who miss multiple meetings and agreed a letter should initially be sent before any action is taken. The letter would notify the member of the bylaws rules.

Old Business

Fire Commission members were told discussions continue on the truss construction rules.

Members agreed to schedule the Fire Commission photo for the November meeting.

Members also discussed receiving a good response at the community meetings and suggested the ideas and comments be compiled at a future meeting.

The retreat is scheduled for Thursday, October 27th at the UMaine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The agenda will focus on improving communications and developing short-term and long-term workplans.

A motion by Jack Berry, seconded by Dick Brown, to hire Dwyer Vessey to facilitate at the October 27th retreat and to authorize staff to spend up to \$1000.00 for her services. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

The Fire Commission was informed that the Task Force to Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs, formed by the Maine Legislature in 2005, scheduled their first meeting for Monday, October 17th at 10:00am in Room 228 of the State House. Members discussed the Fire Commission's need for an active role in any deliberations of this new task force. Fire Commission members stressed the necessity of a presence at this initial meeting and future meetings around the state. Representative Dick Brown, a member of the Fire Commission, was appointed by Speaker Richardson to serve on the task force.

Fire Commission members discussed their role in advocating for a comprehensive approach to protecting people from fires. Members also discussed the importance to advocate in a united voice for sprinkler systems in new residential properties. Members spoke of the moral obligation to send a strong message on the value of sprinklers and how they save lives. Members also agreed

that educating all the stakeholders, including builders and the insurance industry, of the benefits of sprinklers is a very important task for the Fire Commission. Members discussed several ideas, including writing letters to the editor.

Fire Commission members were informed that the Traffic Emergency Flagger Program was now available in PowerPoint.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Pinette

Meeting Schedule

Monday, November 7 th	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall 1:00pm
Monday, December 5 th	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall 1:00pm
Monday, January 9 th	Fire Caucus	State House 12Noon
Monday, January 9 th	Regular Meeting	State House 1:00pm
Monday, February 6 th	Fire Caucus	State House 12Noon
Monday, February 6 th	Regular Meeting	State House 1:00pm

Please Note: Florian Hall is located at the Central Maine Commerce Center and is the State Fire Marshal's new meeting room.